

It concerns a good friend of the United States, a country that for twenty years has been one of the bedrocks upon which the search of peace in the Middle East has rested, here I speak about the Arab Republic of Egypt. I am loathe to bring to this floor anything that mars the image of the country that produced a leader of the courage and vision of Anwar Sadat.

I am told that the time is never right for such a statement. This is, as the experts always say, a "critical moment in the Middle East," a "turning point," or a "cross-roads." A wrong word here and a misplaced gesture there, I am told, and the pendulum may swing from tension to confrontation. Well, they may be correct. But then the time may never be right to speak out.

The wrong that has been committed in Egypt on a daily basis is one with which we in the West sadly have far too much experience. Indeed, it is a wrong that mars our history at its very roots and is something that we can never work too hard to remove from our thoughts and our consciousness. But because I know how far we have come in ridding this curse from our minds and hearts, and because I have come to learn how much it has become daily fare in the newspapers, airwaves, and pulpits of Egypt, I have put aside my reluctance to speak out on this issue today.

The issue is anti-Semitism.

I am not speaking of critiques of Israeli policy, but a resurgence of acerbic anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. I am speaking of the coarsest sort of hatred of Jews as Jews, the kind of hatred that pollutes the mind, infects the soul and ensures that peace remains stone cold.

Caricatures of Jews that could have been lifted directly from the pages of Der Sturmer seem to have been transplanted directly into the leading Egyptian newspapers; accusations of far-fetched Jewish conspiracies that are restricted to the radical fringe in our country are daily fare of the elite press in Cairo—cartoons that are grotesque, stories that are lurid, articles that are filled with nothing but hate, loathing and intolerance. I have a long catalogue of vile statements, pictures, cartoons, and articles, but I will not sully the reputation of this chamber in reciting them to you today. I will, however, request inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of selections from several major Egyptian newspapers in recent months. These media outlets are all state-owned, pro-government newspapers.

It is a sad reality that anti-Semitism exists in many parts of the globe, alongside its first cousins of racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance. And I am the first to admit that we as a nation do not have clean hands here. But what separates our experience from the terrible form of anti-Semitism that we see in Egypt today is that we denounce it from the secular and religious pulpits of our so-

ciety. We give it no sanction and no sanctuary in our public life. And we fight it wherever it rears its ugly head.

Unfortunately, in Egypt the opposite seems to be the rule. Some of the vilest forms of anti-Semitic literature are published not in the sensationalist opposition press but in the major newspapers owned and operated by the Egyptian leaders who either dismiss the numerous examples of anti-Semitism as the stuff of far-left or far-right fringe groups or rush to hide behind the four word safe haven of "freedom of the press." It is disappointing that Egyptian leaders do not take to the airwaves, opinion pages or pulpits of their country to denounce anti-Semitism and condemn those who would traffic in hate.

It is particularly disappointing that Egyptian leaders do not take a stand against this hatred because of its history and its role. Egypt is a leader in the Arab world, which affords her enormous influence. Egypt has been a brave leader in the pursuit of a peace that, on this issue, has sadly lost its moral compass. Two generations after the Holocaust and the founding of Israel, I, for one, can no longer sit idly by as I watch a new generation of Middle Easterners grow up inheriting an ideology of hate. Nor can I sit idly by as we Americans annually funnel close to 2 billion dollars to Egypt, some of which subsidizes a government-owned press which promulgates hatred and corrupts the minds of its readers.

Therefore, I believe that there needs to be a clear, unequivocal and systematic effort by the Government of Egypt to repudiate the purveyors of anti-Semitic hatred, to build a culture of tolerance on which the prospect of real peace can flourish.

As I said at the outset, I rise today with extreme reluctance. I want to be clear that this is not an issue regarding the freedom of the press in Egypt; rather, it is a call to action. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending a message to our friends in Egypt that such ugly and despicable anti-Semitism rhetoric must be repudiated officially and strongly at every level.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 3, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,776,367,926,942.46. Five trillion, seven hundred seventy-six billion, three hundred sixty-seven million, nine hundred twenty-six thousand, nine hundred forty-two dollars and forty-six cents.

One year ago, April 3, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,750,620,000,000. Five trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty million.

Five years ago, April 3, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,135,691,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred thirty-five billion, six hundred ninety-one million.

Ten years ago, April 3, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,470,646,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred seventy billion, six hundred forty-six million.

Fifteen years ago, April 3, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,021,705,000,000. Two trillion, twenty-one billion, seven hundred five million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion, \$3,754,662,926,942.46. Three trillion, seven hundred fifty-four billion, six hundred sixty-two million, nine hundred twenty-six thousand, nine hundred forty-two dollars and forty-six cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

APRIL 26, 2001, IS NATIONAL D.O. DAY

• Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, April 26 is National D.O. Day, a day when we recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) across the country for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National D.O. Day, more than 500 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and medical students, will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

I am pleased that nearly 40 osteopathic representatives will be visiting our Capitol from Illinois. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians, staff from the American Osteopathic Association's headquarters in Chicago, and osteopathic medical students from the Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

For more than a century, D.O.s have made a difference in the lives and health of Americans everywhere. They have treated presidents and Olympic athletes. They have contributed to the fight against AIDS and the fight for civil rights. And D.O.s have been represented at the highest levels of the medical profession. Recently, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the chief medical officer for the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army were all osteopathic physicians.

As fully licensed physicians able to prescribe medication and perform surgery, D.O.s are committed to serving the health needs of rural and underserved communities. That is why D.O.s make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

In addition, 64 percent of D.O.s practice in the primary care areas of medicine, fulfilling a need for more primary care physicians in an era marked by the growth of managed care. Overall, more than 100 million patient visits are made each year to D.O.s.

In recognition of National D.O. Day, I would like to congratulate the over 1,900 osteopathic physicians in Illinois, the approximately 630 students at Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people. •